

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 01979 242237Z  
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05  
CIAE-00 SAB-02 EB-04 L-01 PRS-01 /041 W  
-----242242 033930 /73  
P 242224Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6735

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1979

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PFOR VE  
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ

1. I HAD A 45- MINUTE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ THIS MORNING (FEB 24) TO REVIEW RELATIONSHIPS IN GENERAL. THE PRESIDENT WAS IN A MELLOW MOOD AND EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER (STATE 39828). THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR THAT THE CIA INCIDENT, AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, WAS CLOSED AND HE LOOKS FORWARD TO A FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US.
2. THE PRESIDENT REPEATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE WITH REGARD TO TH CUBAN QUESTION. HE SAID HE HAD ALSO HEARD THAT WITH REGARD TO THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, TORRIJOS' POSITION MAY BE AN INTRANSIGENT ONE ON ONE OR TWO POINTS. HE THINKS THAT THIS WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE AND SUGGESTED THAT IF VENEZUELA( AND COLOMBIA) COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN MODERATING TORRIJOS' POSITION HE WOULD BE GLAD TO DO SO BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THE MATTER OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE. THE PRESIDENT IS STILL EXPECTING THAT AMBASSADOR BUNKER AT SOME POINTS WILL COME TO CARACAS TO BRIEF HIM (STATE 27336).
3. THE PRESIDENT DID REFER TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CARACA 01979 242237Z

OF FEB 18(WHITEHOUSE MESSAGE 180022Z FEB 77), AND TO THE REFERECNE THAT DATES FOR A VISIT WOULD BE SUGGESTED FOR HIS CONSIDERATION SOON, THE PRESIDENT IS CLEARLY VERY ANXIOUS AND VERY INTERESTED IN MAKING THIS VISIT AND LOOKS FORWARD TO IT AS A KEY MEANS OF CONSOLIDATING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT HE HAD PLANNED A TRIP TO THE OPEC COUNTRIES AND THE MIDDLE EAST PROBABLY

AT THE END OF APRIL, ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT AN IMMUTABLE DATE.  
HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO CONSULT WITH KEY MEMBERS  
OF OPEC TO AVOID SPLITS AND PROBLEMS THAT WOULD ONLY PREJUDICE  
THE WORLD ECONOMY IN GENERAL. IN ANY EVENT, THE PRESIDENT  
INDICATED HE DID NOT REALLY WANT TO TAKE ANY TRIP UNTIL  
SOME FIRM DECISION AS TO TIMING FOR A POSSIBLE VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON COULD BE AGREED UPON.

4. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT HE HAD GIVEN ORDERS TO THE  
MINISTER OF MINES TO SPEED UP THE TERMINATION OF THE OIL  
NATIONALIZATION PROCESS AND THAT HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO HAVE  
ALL OF THOSE PROBLEMS SETTLED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

5. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S GOOD HUMOR AND SINCERE  
APPRECIATION FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE CIA INCIDENT  
WAS QUITE EVIDENT. WE ARE, I THINK, BACK ON AN EVEN  
KEEL WITH EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR FRUITFUL COOPERATION.  
VAKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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